BOLIVIA: Coup Plotting Accelerates

Colonel Natusch, leader of the aborted coup last November, apparently now has the support in the military needed to ensure a successful coup against General Garcia Meza. The coup is planned for early November but may be advanced for security reasons--Natusch is under surveillance--or if domestic turmoil occurs following government-planned austerity measures to be announced soon. Natusch would assume the presidency, while his allies would be given important military assignments. The cabinet and other senior officials reportedly would include civilians and military officers with sound technical and professional credentials. Garcia Meza may yet move against Natusch or try to co-opt him by offering him a position in his government.

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Approved for Release FEB 2000